Preface

Meniscal injuries are clearly the most common affliction a knee surgeon will encounter. Indeed, the diagnosis and treatment of meniscal tears are the "life-blood" of a sports medicine practice. Once regarded as a "vestigial" structure, the role of the meniscus as crucial element of knee function and health has never been more evident. With increasing longevity and active lifestyles of aging patients, the preservation of meniscal integrity has become increasingly important.

This book endeavors to enlighten the reader with recent scientific data which will assist in the timely recognition and treatment of meniscal lesions. It is my sincere hope and expectation that this book will convey to health care practitioners evidence-based "pearls" which will translate to improved patient care and meniscal preservation.

I am indebted to my authors—all thought leaders in meniscus science. Their contributions have helped create this treatise on the most recent scientific developments pertaining to meniscal function, mechanics, replacement, imaging, diagnosis, surgical repair, and rehabilitation.

I wish to thank the "forefathers" of meniscal surgery—such visionaries as Drs. Ken DeHaven, Dilworth Cannon, and Charles Henning who recognized the value of meniscal repair when contemporaries considered the meniscus as a dispensable structure.

I am indebted to my teachers, Drs. Joseph Torg, James Nixon, and John Lachman, who taught me timeless principles of caring for patients with musculoskeletal injuries. I am especially grateful for the blessing of an exceptional mentor, Ray A. Moyer M.D., who taught me innumerable lessons in patient care, and, more importantly, in integrity, honesty, and conservative treatment. The wisdom I gained under Dr. Moyer's tutelage continues to serve my patients well. I steadfastly share Dr. Moyer's instruction on ethically based and compassionate care to medical students, residents, and fellows at every opportunity.

I wish to acknowledge my Chairman, L. Scott Levin, M.D., who has supported my academic interests and has nurtured a unique culture of scientific investigation and discovery at the department of Orthopedic Surgery at the University of Penn. In addition, my colleague and Chief of Sports Medicine, Brian Sennett, M.D., has indeed been the "partner from heaven" in that he has wholeheartedly supported my educational, research, and clinical interests from the moment I joined Penn 5 years ago.

Jennifer Schneider, developmental editor, has been a positive and encouraging force who has demonstrated exceptional patience and kindness to both me and the other authors. I truly appreciate her professionalism, expertise, and skill, all clothed in courtesy.

Finally, I wish to thank my family, who, next to my faith, has been the singular most important source of energy in my life. My parents, John D. and Loretta T. Kelly, made innumerable sacrifices to finance my education and instructed me well in "old world" values. I have the gifts of a sister, Mary Ann, who is fiercely loyal and loving and a twin brother, Michael, who has "covered my back" his entire lifetime.

My daughters, Mary and Ann Marie, have brought me more joy than any parent could imagine. I marvel how they have blossomed into intelligent and service-oriented young women. My wife of 25 years, Marie, who I fondly refer to as "Santa Maria," has been a continual source of love, loyalty, and wisdom. Her unconditional support, through "thick and thin," continually energizes me so that my dreams, such as this book, can be realized.

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